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Limited Nolen

9/17/62 RSB/sav Kenneth A. Kent

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Clearances:
JMMcSweeney

POLITICAL - EXTERNAL

DECLASSIFIED

1. Berlin/Germany

GDR leader ULBRICHT and his deputy Willi STOPH stopped over in Kiev August 1-3 en route to a vacation on the Black Sea. Since KHRUSHCHEV also is vacationing there, it is assumed there will be meetings between the two.

The visit of General YAKUBOVSKY with General FREEMAN in Heidelberg was briefly but positively reported in Pravda August 9. The Soviet press on that day also reported without comment DOBRYNIN's meeting with Secretary RUSK. The restrained Soviet reportage of these two meetings gave the impression that the Berlin/German dispute between Washington and Moscow was under control and contrasted to the sense of crisis being built up in the Western press.

A number of short reports also appeared during the week on Western "provocations" involving Berlin itself. The FRG interdiction of trains running between West Berlin and Austria, on grounds that the train crews lacked appropriate Allied documentation, was singled out for particularly sharp criticism. This action proves, according to Soviet propaganda, just who disturbs West Berlin access. Other "provocations" reported were the resumption of US troop convoys on the autobahn and the announcement that President LUEBKE would visit Berlin for the August 13 anniversary of the Wall.

In a transparent attempt to bolster continuing Soviet efforts to overcome popular antipathy towards Germans, whether from the East or West, the Soviet press has given particular prominence to the Moscow appearance of the GDR Volksarmee ensemble. The GDR troupe's feature number is "Moscow and Berlin Are Two Loving Sisters." Red Star (August 9) in an article characteristic of the coverage, praised this "meeting of friends" and printed a patently staged photograph of some of the GDR warriors walking arm-in-arm with Soviet enlisted men. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. South Viet-Nam

The Soviet Union continued to withhold its support for Chinese Communist and North Vietnamese proposals for an international conference to resolve the "South Vietnamese situation." Soviet papers reported CHEN Yi's statements on Laos at the Swiss national-day reception in Peiping, but made no reference to his conference proposal.

Soviet reservations about such a conference also appeared to be reflected in the joint declaration by the visiting National Front for the Liberation of South Viet-Nam and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa. The statement praised the Laos agreement, but avoided stating the obvious conclusion that a Laos-type conference might also be a good way to deal with the situation in South Viet-Nam.

The Front delegation arrived in Moscow early in July to attend the Moscow propaganda Congress for Disarmament, and, according to the joint declaration, remained in the USSR until August 4. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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3. Nasser Interview

The text of President NASSER's interview with the editors of Pravda and Izvestiya was carried in the August 6 editions of those newspapers. The interview was devoted almost wholly to UAR internal developments and problems, and there appeared to be a studious avoidance by Nasser of opportunities to make comments bearing on the ideological differences which distinguish his "Arab Socialism" from the brand of "socialism" practiced in the Soviet Union. Thus, there was no articulate expression of the UAR's professed rejection of atheism, the class struggle, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the complete abolition of private property. The substance of the interview suggested that Nasser was intent on leaving polemics to others in the interest of maintaining good state-to-state relations. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Titov Space Flight Anniversary

The first anniversary of Herman TITOV's 25-hour space flight was widely marked by editorials and special articles in the Soviet press, which stressed that this represented a tremendous achievement for socialist science and technology. At the same time, most articles took the occasion to claim that Soviet space efforts are entirely devoted to peaceful purposes, while the space program of the US has primarily military goals in view. Although no indication was given of the timetable relating to the landing of Soviet astronauts on the moon, the Soviet Union's first astronaut, Yuri GAGARIN, and Titov hinted that further manned Soviet space flights would take place this year. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

5. Congo

On August 9, the Soviet Government announced the appointment of Sergey Sergeyevich NEMCHINA as Soviet Ambassador to Leopoldville. Nemchina, who is now 50 years old, has been in the Soviet diplomatic service since 1941 and has held important posts in Thailand, Syria, France, and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Unofficial Visit of King of Afghanistan

The King of Afghanistan, Mohammed ZAHIR Shah, arrived in the Soviet Union on August 6 for an unofficial eight-day visit at the invitation of Premier Khrushchev. The King called on and had luncheon with Khrushchev on August 8 on the south coast of the Crimea where Khrushchev is vacationing. (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. Nuclear Testing and Disarmament

The Soviet public has not yet been informed that its government has actually resumed nuclear-weapons tests, although it had announced on July 22 that such tests would be undertaken. In the meantime, press coverage from the disarmament conference at Geneva continues to highlight statements by Soviet representative ZORIN discrediting US initiatives. Continued US insistence on on-site inspection is consistently depicted as the main stumbling block to the conclusion of a treaty banning nuclear-weapons testing. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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placed under Italian administration or trusteeship by international agreement. They stated that they would like to request the Italian delegation to reconsider this proposal with a view to determining whether any good purpose would be served by pressing for its inclusion in the present treaty. They pointed out that the inclusion of such a provision would not establish any right for Italy with regard to the colonies, and that omission of the provision would in no way prejudice Italy's case with regard to the colonies. For the United States, they said, there are so many international issues related to this problem, that the necessary consideration of the Italian proposal would, in all likelihood, result in a very great delay in the conclusion of the commercial treaty. They stated that there would be many other occasions when the proposal regarding preferential arrangements with the colonies could be considered. They referred to the fact that the colonial question was to be considered by the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Four Powers, that the establishment of trust territories, if that were decided upon, would require action by various organs of the United Nations. The principal advantages Italy would wish to grant to the colonies, they said, would doubtless be in the commercial field and conventional rules regarding trade preferences were now being considered on a multilateral basis in connection with the establishment of an International Trade Organization.

The Italian negotiators stated that the inclusion of the exception would in no way prejudice international action with regard to the African colonies, and that, in case the colonies were restored, Italy would be unable without such a provision in the treaty to grant concessions to the colonies without also granting them, under the most-favored-nation rule, to the United States. They stated also, however, that they would give further consideration to their proposal, and make it a subject for discussion at a later meeting.

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